GARUDA - THE DIVINE KING OF BIRDS

Said to be an embodiment of Vedas (Veda Swaroopi) Garuda is prominently extolled in Puranas for his knowledge, strength and power. He is kaala abhimani, Pitambara (Vastra) abhimani, Vedaabhimani Devatha. GARUDA is neetishastra pravartak.

He has Amrutha Kalasha in one hastha and other one ABHAYA hastha. Garuda has 5 colours on his body.

Knee to Toes Haldi colour.
Naabhi to knees - White colour
Kanta to Naabhi - Red colour
Kanta to Head - Green colour
Hair - Black colour.

Having beautiful wings (his wings are golden in colour) he is called Suparna.

GARUDA-MUDRA is used during naivedya. He swallows poison, he not only protects us from snake's poison but also from inauspicious events in life. Garuda drives away evil spells, black magic influences, negative spirits and removes all poisonous effects in one's body

With the head and wings of an eAgle, with a strong nose and body of a human, Garuda is regarded as the King of birds Pakshiraja. His reference we find in several Puranas.

Garuda Purana one of the Ashtadasa Puranas is exclusively dedicated in the name of Garuda. This shows Garuda's prominence in Hindu philosophy. Garuda Purana is regarded as a Saattvik Purana.

Garuda was born to Kashyapa Prajapathi and his wife Vinatha. Anoora the Rathasaarathi (charioteer) of Surya the Sun God is his brother. Serpents are his Gnathis (step brothers) born to Kadhru another wife of Sage Kashyapa and sister of Vinatha.

bhargavasarma.blogspot.com

Garuda had even ventured to bring Amrutha from Heaven in order to get his mother released from the bondage (Daasya).

Sravana Sukla Panchami is believed to be the day Garuda & His mother got released from Daasya (bondage) and hence, the day is reckoned as Garuda Panchami.

Devotees believe Garuda Panchami to be the day Garuda was born and hence, it is also celebrated as Garuda Jayanthi.

On this day special celebrations are held at Tirumala temple where Malayappa Swamy (Lord Venkateshwara) is taken out in procession on Garuda Vahana.

Garudaadri one of the seven hills among the Tirumala hills is named after Garuda.

Tirumala Srivaari Brahmotsavam of Lord Sri Venkateswara starts with the hoisting of a flag with a picture of Garuda on the Dhwajasthambha.

On the fifth day of the festival, famous Garudotsavam takes place when Lord Venkateshwara is taken out in procession with Garuda carrying the Lord on his shoulders.

It is believed and said that it is highly meritorious and mukthi pradham to have darshan of the Lord seated on Garuda. Garuda antargatha Narahari is papa pariharaka, amangala pariharaka.

Lord Sri Krishna says in Bhagawadgita Vibhuthi Yoga (sloka # 30) that He is Garuda among birds "Vynatheyatcha Pakshinaam".

In Sri Vishnu Sahasranama Stothram (sloka # 91), Lord Vishnu is extolled as SUPARNO VAAYU VAAHANA.

Panchamukha Aanjaneya Swamy (five headed Hanuman) is depicted as having Garuda as one of the five faces facing west.

Garuda is the Divine Vehicle or Vaahana (chief mount) of Lord Vishnu carrying Him on his shoulders and thus Lord Vishnu is called as Garudavahana.

Mangalam Bhagawan VishnuH: Mangalam Madhusuudana:
Mangalam Pundareekaaksha: Mangalam GarudadHwajah:

Garudadhwajah is one of the names of Lord Vishnu; the one whose banner/flag is Garuda; the one who has Garuda in his flag.

An ardent devotee of Lord Vishnu, Garuda always resides in Sri Vaikunta engaged in eternal service to Lord SriManNarayana.

Pouranically Garuda is also known by other names viz.

Garuthmantha, Vynatheya, Suparna,Naagaanthaka, Pakshiraja,

Vinathasutha.

As per Taratamya Garuda is placed in 5th Kaksha along with Sesha Devaru & Rudra DEvaru. Lord Vishnu is antaryaAmi of Garuda. There is no avathara for Garuda.

Sravana Sukla Panchami is also reckoned as GARDUA PANCHAMI dedicated to Lord Garuda the divine King of Birds. On this day Lord Garuda is also worshiped along with Sesha Devaru/Nagadevatha.

गरुड द्वादशनामस्तोत्रम.

सुपर्णं वैनतेयं च नागारिं नागभूषणम।
विषांतकं शशांकं च आदित्यम विश्वतोमुखम॥ १॥

रुग्मंतम खगपतिं तार्क्ष्यं काश्यपनंदनं
द्वादशैतानि नामानि गरुडस्य महात्मनः ॥२॥

यः पठेत प्रातरुत्थाय सर्वत्र विजयी भवेत।
विषं नाक्रमते तस्य न तं हिंसति पन्नगः ॥३॥

संग्रामे व्यवहारे च कार्यसिद्धिं च मानवः
बंधनान्मुक्तिमाप्नोति यात्रायां सिद्धिमाप्नुयात
कार्यसिद्धिं कुरुष्वार्य विहगाय नमो ऽस्तुते ॥४॥

గరుడ ద్వాదశనామస్తోత్రమ్.

సువర్ణం పైనతేయం చ నాగారిం నాగభూషణమ్।
విషాంతకం శశాంకం చ ఆదిత్యమ్ విశ్వతోముఖమ్॥ ౧॥

రుగ్మంతమ్ ఖగపతిం తార్క్ష్యం కాశ్యపనందనం
ద్వాదశైతాని నామాని గరుడస్య మహాత్మనః ॥౨॥

యః పఠేత్ ప్రాతరుత్థాయ సర్వత్ర విజయీ భవేత్।
విషం నాక్రమతే తస్య న తం హింసతి పన్నగః ॥౩॥

సంగ్రామే వ్యవహారే చ కార్యసిద్ధిం చ మానవః
బంధనాన్ముక్తిమాప్నోతి యాత్రాయాం సిద్ధిమాప్నుయాత్
కార్యసిద్ధిం కురుష్వార్య విహగాయ నమో ఽస్తుతే ॥౪॥

ಗರುಡ ದ್ವಾದಶನಾಮಸ್ತೋತ್ರಮ್.

ಸುಪರ್ಣಂ ವೈನತೇಯಂ ಚ ನಾಗಾರಿಂ ನಾಗಭೂಷಣಮ್।
ವಿಷಾಂತಕಂ ಶಶಾಂಕಂ ಚ ಆದಿತ್ಯಮ್ ವಿಶ್ವತೋಮುಖಮ್॥ ೧॥

ರುಗ್ಮಂತಮ್ ಖಗಪತಿಂ ತಾರ್ಕ್ಷ್ಯಂ ಕಾಶ್ಯಪನಂದನಂ
ದ್ವಾದಶೈತಾನಿ ನಾಮಾನಿ ಗರುಡಸ್ಯ ಮಹಾತ್ಮನಃ ॥೨॥

ಯಃ ಪಠೇತ್ ಪ್ರಾತರುತ್ಥಾಯ ಸರ್ವತ್ರ ವಿಜಯೀ ಭವೇತ್।
ವಿಷಂ ನಾಕ್ರಮತೇ ತಸ್ಯ ನ ತಂ ಹಿಂಸತಿ ಪನ್ನಗಃ ॥೩॥

ಸಂಗ್ರಾಮೇ ವ್ಯವಹಾರೇ ಚ ಕಾರ್ಯಸಿದ್ಧಿಂ ಚ ಮಾನವಃ
ಬಂಧನಾನ್ಮುಕ್ತಿಮಾಪ್ನೋತಿ ಯಾತ್ರಾಯಾಂ ಸಿದ್ಧಿಮಾಪ್ನುಯಾತ್
ಕಾರ್ಯಸಿದ್ಧಿಂ ಕುರುಷ್ವಾರ್ಯ ವಿಹಗಾಯ ನಮೋ ಽಸ್ತುತೇ ॥೪॥

Garuda Dwadasanama Stothram

suparNaM vainatEyaM cha naagaariM naagabhooShaNam|
viShaaMtakaM shashaaMkaM cha aadityam vishwatOmukham||
1||
rugmaMtam khagapatiM taarkShyaM kaashyapanaMdanaM
dwaadashaitaani naamaani garuDasya mahaatmanaH ||2||
yaH paThEt praatarutthaaya sarvatra vijayI bhavEt|
viShaM naakramatE tasya na taM hiMsati pannagaH ||3||
saMgraamE vyavahaarE cha kaaryasiddhiM cha maanavaH
baMdhanaanmuktimaapnOti yaatraayaaM siddhimaapnuyaat
kaaryasiddhiM kuruShwaarya vihagaaya namO stutE ||4||
|| iti garuDadwaadashanaama stOtram ||
madhwEshaArpaNamastu

Garuda dwadashnaama is for VYAVAHAAR KAUSHALYA siddhi.

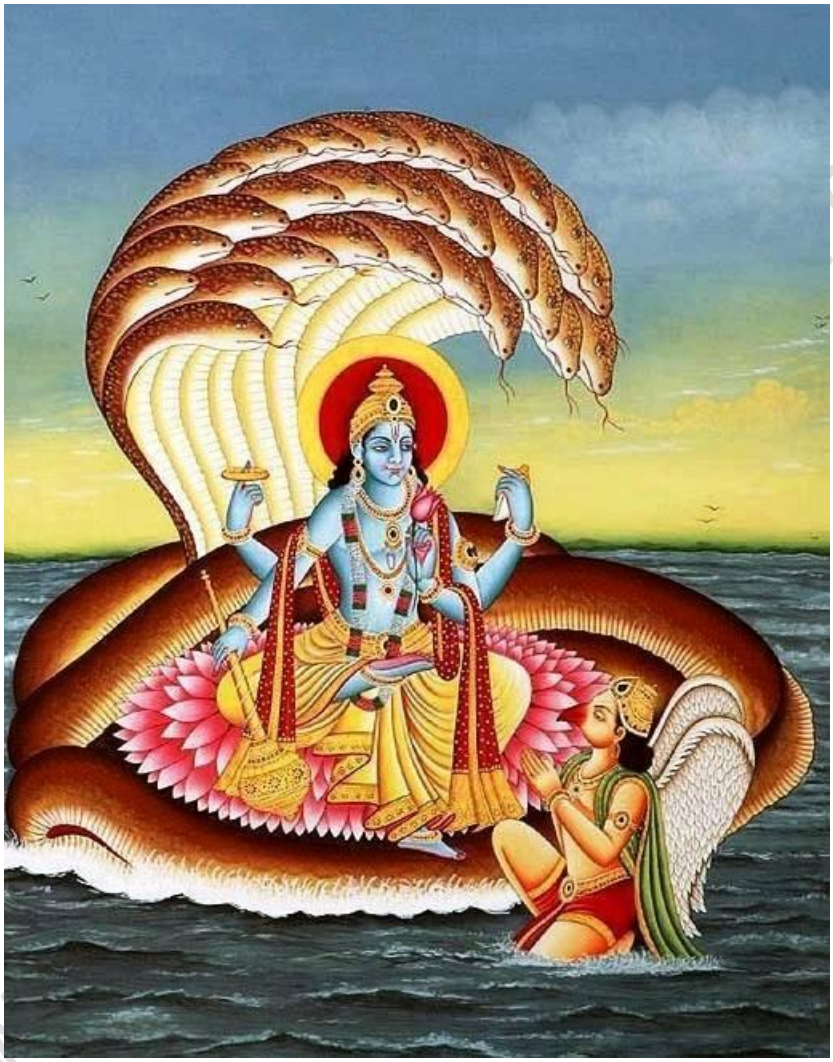
तत्पुरुषाय विद्महे
सुपर्ण पक्षाय धीमही
तन्नोगरुड प्रचोदयात्

(Garudadri hills at Tirumala)

Annexure

GARUDA PURANA

(Synopsis)



What is Garuda Purana?

Garuda Purana is one of those Ashtaadasa Maha-Puranas composed by Sage Sri Vedavyaasaru the divine literary incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

It is called Garuda Purana because, it was Garuda the Divine King of Birds who first heard it from the Lord which was in the

form of a dialogue between the two > upadesha from the Supreme God Hari sArvottama - SriManNarayana.

Later, Garuda recited the same to Sage Kashyapa that percolated down the line...

Gaurda Purana contains about 19000 slokas and is classified as SaAttvika Purana.

What it deals with?

Like any other Vishnu related Puranas; Garuda Purana also deals with the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, geographical description and origin of the Universe; Creation; Procreation; Genealogy of Gods; Sages and great Kings; Time element; brief about Raamaayana; Mahaabhaaratha; Lord Sri Krishna; about the history of Solar and Lunar dynasties etc.....

Apart from the above; Garuda Purana also talks about the origin and propagation of Garuda and....

- description of Shodasa Samskaras;
- Varnaasrama Dharma;
- different kinds of Austerities; methods of worship;
- Praayaschitta (atoning for sins);
- Divine & Sacred Manthras;
- study of Gems and Jewels (Navarathnas); rare Gems;
- various types & characteristics of Saligrama;
- Navagrahas; Astrology related topics like electional astrology;
- Saamudrika Saasthra, predictions based on physical traits (science of Physiognomy);
- Vaasthu Saastra related to Temples and Houses;
- prominent places of Pilgrimage;
- various types of Charities and their significance;
- about Gau-daana;
- Medicine; antidotes etc.

www.bhargavasarma.blogspot.com

What is the uniqueness of Garuda Purana?

Uniqueness of Garuda Purana lies in the fact that it is the only sacred text that talks about....
life after death,
the journey of the soul,
death and its aftermath, rebirth or reincarnation.

Even the modern science could not break the mystery of death and after; whereas, Garuda Purana has spelled out these realities ages before.

Among the Shodasa Samskaaras prescribed in Hindu Dharma for a human being, last one called AntHyeshti saMskara or Apara Karma is related to matters pertaining to funeral rites and other ceremonies.

Apara Karma is exclusively and exhaustively covered in Garuda Purana.

Further, Garuda Purana also covers description about the...

-Nether worlds; Yama-Loka;
-various kinds of Naraka Lokas (Hell);
-experiences of the Soul when it leaves the body;
-cycle of countless births the Soul takes;
-Law of Karma; Fruits of Karma (action);
-various types of punishments for sins committed;
-about Moksha (Salvation);
-detailed description of the Funeral rites to be performed;
-its procedure including the rituals; followed by the
-ceremonies starting from death till the completion of one year
--
-including Sapindikarana Sraaddha;
-Asoucha Nirnaya; Sraaddha Vidhi;
-significance of Kusa Grass (Dharbha); Sesame seeds (Thila);

www.bhargavasarma.blogspot.com

-Lavana Daana; significance of Pinda daana;
-Gaya Sraaddha etc.

Merits of Garuda Purana...

As a custom we find in traditional Hindu families, paarayana (reading) of Garuda Purana taking place whenever there is a death in the family till the completion of 13th day ceremony called Vaikunta Samaraadhana.

Great merits (punya) are acquired from reading or listening to Sri Garuda Purana during that time.

Those who narrate and the one who listens to this sacred Garuda Purana within ten days or even after the death of a person will get absolved from sins and is assured of happiness in this world as well as in the next world.

One who listens to Garuda Purana on the occasion of his Parents death, such parents would attain Mukthi and also he will be blessed with good progeny.

Listening to Garuda Purana; one will get rid of sorrow; suffering and will be blessed with peace and prosperity.

By listening to Garuda Purana,

Brahmana will be bestowed with Vidya (knowledge/jnyaAna);
Kshatriya with Land;
Vysya with wealth and a
Suudra will get refined.

Lord Vishnu would get pleased if the narrator of Garuda Purana is worshiped and it is as good as worshiping Lord Sri Hari. (Hari Preeti)

Giving daAna of any of the Shodasa Daanas to a Brahmin is prescribed after listening or paarayana (reading) of Garuda Purana.

www.bhargavasarma.blogspot.com

Listening to or reading of Garuda Purana during Mahaalaya Pithru Paksha is sacred and meritorious that pleases the Pithru Devathas;

Donating the sacred book of Garuda Purana to a Brahmin is also highly meritorious.

By reading Garuda Purana one will get an opportunity to refine him-self and move on the righteous path.

Myth & Realities of Garuda Purana

There is an apprehension (myth) among people that, the text of Garuda Purana is inauspicious and hence cannot be read or the book be kept at home or
should be read only on the occasion of death at home.

People hesitate to keep this sacred text at their homes or read it because of its fearful subject matter.

It is only a misconception due to the contents of Garuda Purana.

REALITIES

Reading Garuda Purana will definitely change the mindset of an evil-doer or a sinner.

Just because it deals with death and its aftermath it is incorrect to tag it as inauspicious.

In Bhagawad-Geeta sloka # 27 chapter # 2 (Saankhya Yoga); Lord Sri Krishna says that, JaAtasya hi dHruvo mRutyu… (indeed certain is death for the born and it is inevitable).

In fact, death is a reality though we hesitate to accept because of lack of its knowledge. Death grins only at those who have no understanding and that it has no pain for those who understand its implications and working.

www.bhargavasarma.blogspot.com

In fact, the entire epic of Garuda Purana is in the form of glorious dialogue between Lord Vishnu and his Divine mount Lord Garuda > upadesha from the Supreme God Hari Sarvottama - Lord Vishnu;

When it was explained or narrated by Paramatma Vishnu Himself, how can it be inauspicious?

Even in Bhagawadgita; Lord Sri Krishna makes a reference to the law of Karma; death and its realities; reincarnation etc. But we don't consider Bhagawadgita as inauspicious; in fact we adore it.

A script that mentions about significance of,
Thulasi; Cow; Thila (sesame); Kusa (Dharbha) is always auspicious and we find all these referred in Garuda Purana.

Thila and Dharbha have emerged out from the body of Lord Vishnu.

One need not get scared with the contents of Garuda Purana either to read or to listen.

It can be treated as learning; that enhances one's spiritual knowledge to discipline himself and to follow the righteous path.

Garuda Purana acts as a speed breaker for a person who is driving his life rashly.

It can be treated as a caution for wrongdoers and acts as a direction to avoid committing sins.

Is it not good to read Garuda Purana and understand its contents and implications when one is alive instead of someone may be kith and kin reading it after the death?

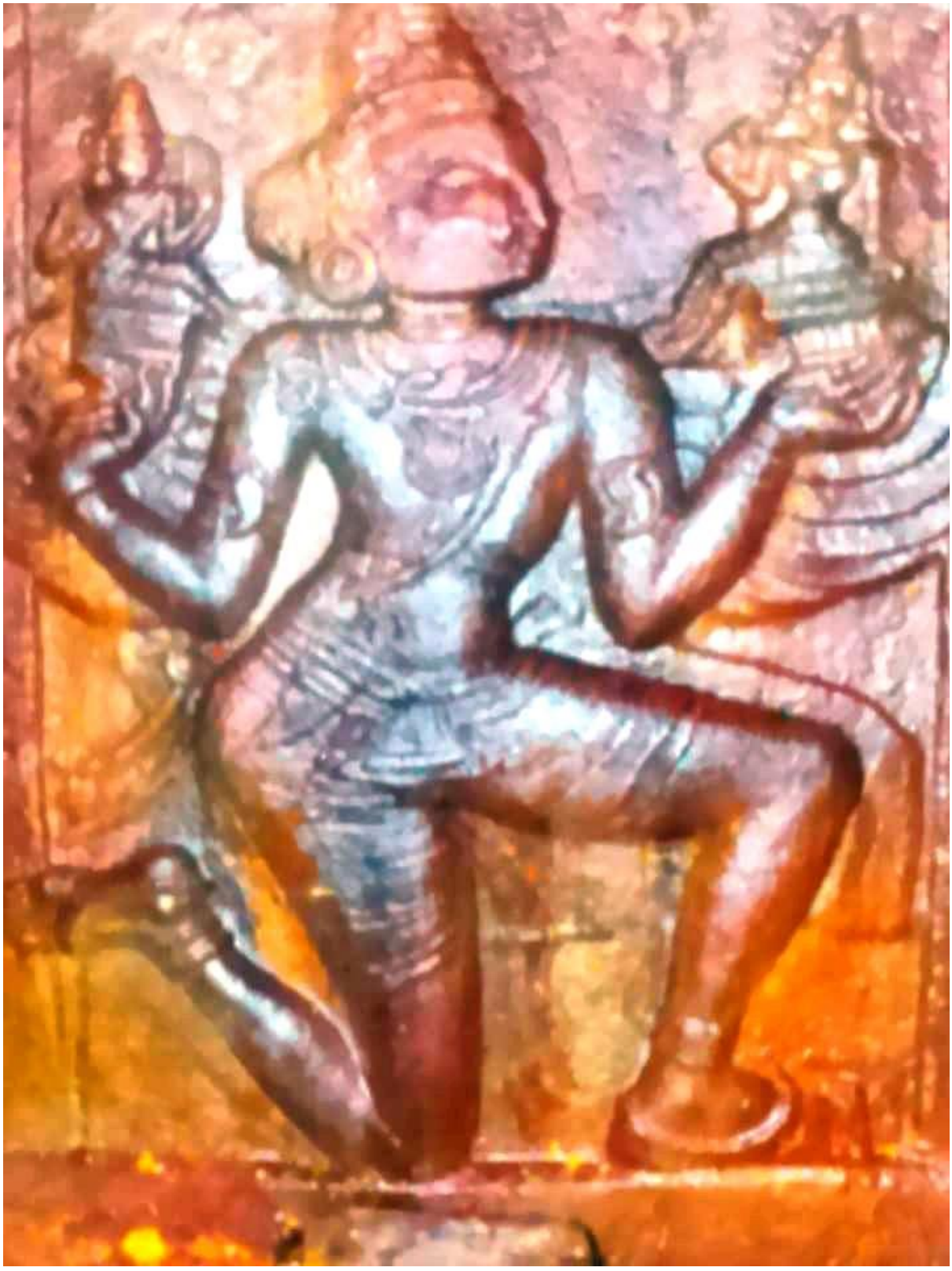
www.bhargavasarma.blogspot.com

Everyone should read the sacred text of Garuda Purana at least once in their life time and there is nothing inauspicious about it and it is only an illusion. It is a SaAttvika Purana.

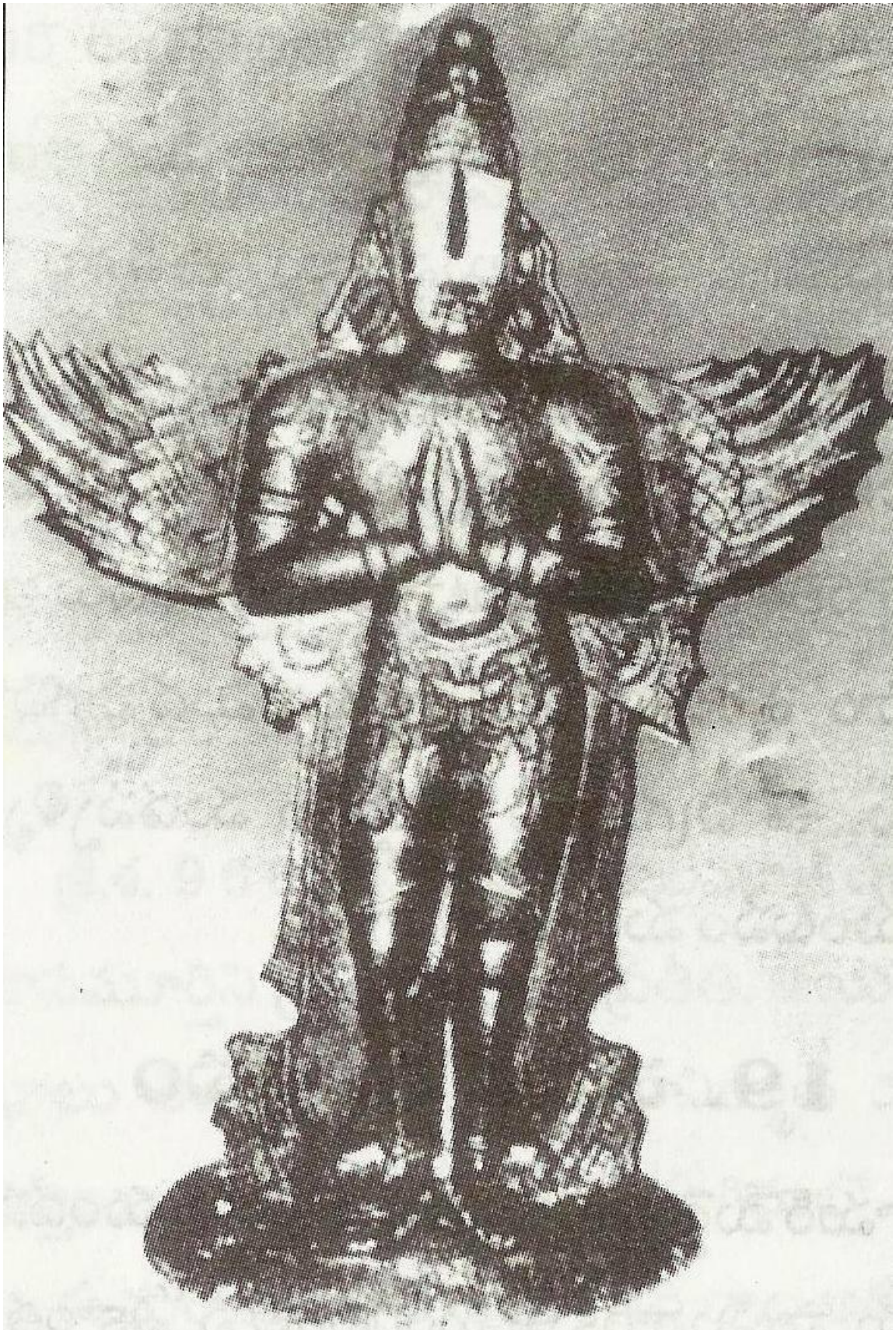
Na vasudevabhaktaanaam-ashubham vidyate kvachit
Janma-mrutyu-jaraa-vyaadhi-bhayam naivopajaayate;

No ill-fate befalls on the devotees of Lord Vaasudeva (Maha Vishnu) and they will never have fear from birth; death; old age and diseases.

Sri Sudheendra theertha Kararchita Garudadhwaja
Sri Lakshmi-Narayana (AshtaBhuja)



[Rare temple of Garuda near Mulabagalu installed by Ramanajucharya]

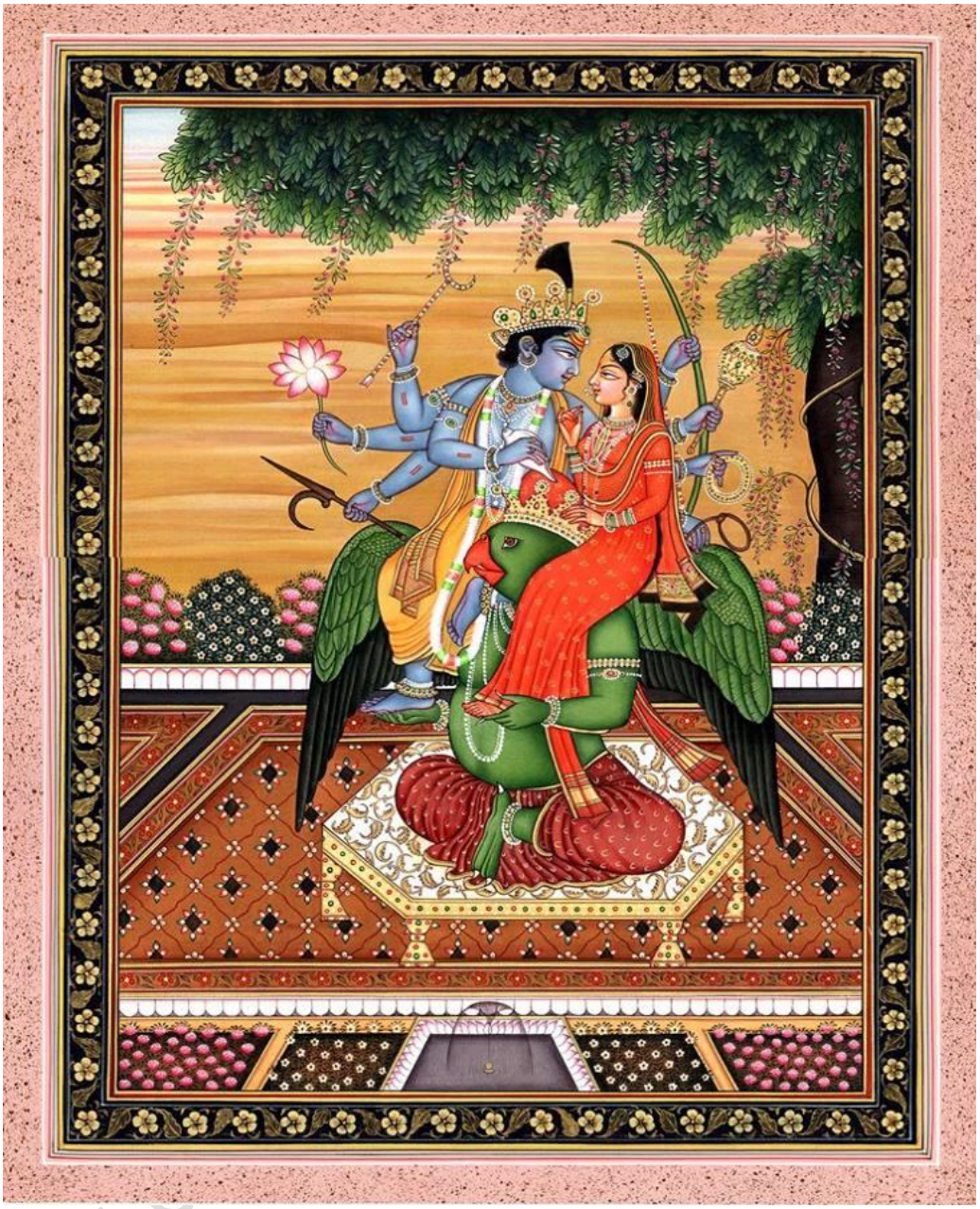


తిరుమామణిమండపంలోని గరుడ

(Garudotsavam at Tirumala Ksehtra)

[One of the important kshetras of GAruda is Nachiarkovil near Kumbakonam. It has stone Garuda - the weight of which increases in every prakara – unique, it is made of stone. The temple is known for its large, separate sanctum dedicated to Kal Garudan (the stone Garuda). Lord Vishnu is worshipped as Srinivasa Perumal, and Goddess Lakshmi as Nachiyar.]

Garudadri hills (Tirumala)



Bharatiramana MukhyaPranaanthargatha
SriMadhvaVallabha Janaardhana Vaasudevah Priyathaam
Preetho Varado Bhavathu

Sri Krishnaarpanamasthu

'nAham kartA hariH kartA'

Hari Sarvottama - Vaayu Jeevottama
Sri GuruRaajoVijayate

Compiled/composed by bhargavasarma

(nirikhi krishna bhagavan)